

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 109213

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PINT, CSCE, UR

SUBJECT: EMBASSY ATTENDANCE AT TRIALS OF HELSINKI MONITORS

REF: A. MOSCOW 2157, B. STATE 44037

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF LETTER FROM CONGRESSMAN DANTE
FASCELL, CHAIRMAN OF COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION
IN EUROPE, TO THE SECRETARY:

2. BEGIN QUOTE. DEAR CY: AS YOU ARE NO DOUBT AWARE, NINE
MEMBERS OF VARIOUS AFFILIATES OF THE PUBLIC GROUP TO
PROMOTE OBSERVANCE OF THE HELSINKI AGREEMENTS IN THE SOVIET
UNION ARE AWAITING TRIALS IN SOVIET PRISONS. ALEKSANDR
GINZBURG, YURI ORLOV AND ANATOLY SHCHARANSKY IN MOSCOW,
LEVKO LUKANYENKO IN KIEV, VIKTORAS PETKUS IN LITHUANIA,
ZVIAD GAMSAKHURDIA, MERAB KOSTAVA AND VIKTOR RTSKHILADZE IN
GEORGIA, AND ROBERT NARARYAN IN ARMENIA HAVE BEEN IMPRISONED
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-SOME FOR OVER A YEAR-BECAUSE THEY BELIEVED THE PLEDGES IN
THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT CONFIRMING 'THE RIGHT OF THE INDIVI-
DUAL TO KNOW AND ACT UPON HIS RIGHTS AND DUTES...'

3. "THEIR TRIALS WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BEGIN WITHIN THE NEXT
FEW MONTHS, AND THEIR FATE IS ONE OF GREAT CONCERN TO ME
AND MY COLLEAGUES ON THE CSCE COMMISSION.

4. "IT HAS COME TO MY ATTENTION THAT, SEVERAL MONTHS AGO, OUR EMBASSY IN MOSCOW OFFICIALLY REQUESTED THAT AN AMERICAN EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVE BE ALLOWED TO OBSERVE THE TRIALS OF GINZBURG, ORLOV AND SHCHARANSKY. NOW THAT THEIR TRIALS --AND THOSE OF THE OTHER SIX HELSINKI MONITORS--ARE IMMINENT, I WOULD LIKE TO SUGGEST THAT A SIMILAR REQUEST BE MADE ON BEHALF OF ALL NINE ARRESTED MEMBERS. WHILE I REALIZE THE US GOVERNMENT IS LIMITED IN WHAT IT CAN ACHIEVE IN SUCH CASES, I STRONGLY BELIEVE WE MUST DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE BEFORE THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES BRING THESE MEN TO TRIAL. AS YOU KNOW, IT HAS OFTEN BEEN SHOWN THAT AN EXPRESSION OF OFFICIAL CONCERN FOR THE FATE OF SOVIET DISSIDENTS CAN IMPROVE THEIR SITUATIONS, PARTICULARLY IN THE CASE OF THOSE WHO ARE IN AREAS MORE REMOTE THAN MOSCOW.

5. "I KNOW YOU SHARE IN THESE CONCERNS AND AM CONFIDENT THAT ALL THE NECESSARY STEPS WILL BE TAKEN."...

6. WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REPLY TO MR. FASCELL. VANCE

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